



THE COMMUNITY OF THE
TREE OF LIFE

Daily Office Easter Season

April 2021

The Community of the Tree of Life

Daily Office

Morning Prayer

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Morning Prayer

Gathering and Preparation

On the Cathedral chime the leader lights the central candle.

Sitting or kneeling

Welcome

At Morning Prayer we come to open and orientate
**+in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Centring Prayer

As we enter prayer now, we pause to be still, slow our
breathing, and centre ourselves in the abiding presence of
Christ.

A minute of silence is held

Opening

Standing

O Lord, open our lips,
and our mouths will sing out your praises.

In your resurrection, O Christ,
let heaven and earth rejoice. Alleluia.

Song

This or another suitable Easter song is sung

**The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases
His mercies never come to an end,
They are new every morning, new every morning,
Great is your faithfulness, O Lord,
Great is your faithfulness.**

Edith McNeill © 1974, 1975 Celebration

The Word of God

Sitting

Psalm

The leader announces the Psalm and how it will be read

OT or NT Reading

The reader announces the reading from the lectern.

At the end of the reading, the reader says:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Silent reflection on the readings

Prayer for God's World

Intercessions

Sitting, kneeling or standing

The leader introduces the intercessions and how they will be offered.

We pray for:

- the World, the UK and its needs
- the Church and her life
- the day and its tasks

Collect for the Day
(or the following Collect)

Almighty God,
through your Son Jesus Christ
you overcame death and opened to us
the gate of everlasting life;
grant us so to die daily to sin,
that we may evermore live with him
in the joy of his resurrection.
Amen

Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray,
in whichever form or language we prefer,
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory
are yours,
now and for ever.
Amen.

Standing

Rule of Life

Jesus says, 'You did not choose me,
but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit',
He sends us to go and make disciples,
giving, serving and joyfully blessing the world in his name.

**Lord, you have given us this day;
let our living of it be marked by
justice, work and blessing,
that we may be fruitful for You.
I choose to stand up, speak out and act justly.
I choose to 'show up' and play my God-given role.
I choose to share blessing as I have been blessed.
My sisters and brothers,
I will pray for you,
encourage you,
and walk with you,
as we seek to be fruitful in Christ.**

The following song or another seasonal song is sung

Christ, as a light illumine and guide me.

Christ, as a shield overshadow me.

Christ under me; Christ over me;

Christ beside me, on my left and my right.

This day be within and without me

Lowly and meek, yet all powerful.

Be in the heart of each to whom I speak;

in the mouth of each who speaks unto me.

This day be within and without me,

Lowly and meek, yet all powerful.

Christ as a light; Christ as a shield;

Christ beside me, on my left and my right.

John Michael Talbot (Prayer of St. Patrick)

1990 Birdwing Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

May the risen Christ grant us the joys of eternal life.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia

The leader extinguishes the candles

We leave the Chapel in silence.

Lunchtime Prayers

Gathering and Preparation

On the Cathedral chime the leader lights the central candle.

Sitting or kneeling

Welcome

At Lunchtime Prayers we come to pause and punctuate
**+ in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Centring Prayer

As we enter prayer now, we pause to be still, slow our breathing, and centre ourselves in the abiding presence of Christ.

A minute of silence is held

Opening Sentences

Standing

**From once upon a time to Kingdom come,
God never changes.
Whether a thousand years or a day,
God is the same.
Teach us to live wisely and well;
interrupt our day with your love.
May the beauty of the Lord, rest on us,
confirming the work of our hands.
Affirm the work of our hands!**

cf. Psalm 90

Dedication
Rule of Life

Jesus says, 'Love one another as I have loved you',
He calls us to a joyful life of belonging, forgiving,
and celebrating with one another.

**Lord, you have given us the gift of one another;
today we choose to shape our community
with worship, reconciliation and Sabbath,
that we may flourish together in Christ.
I choose to respond to 'Who God is'
with 'all I am and have'.
I choose to listen first and speak life.
I choose to eat well, play well and rest well.
My sisters and brothers,
I will pray for you,
encourage you,
and walk with you
as we seek to flourish together in Community.**

Short Scripture Reading
2 Corinthians (The Message)

Monday (5:14-15)

Christ's love has moved us to such extremes. His love has the first and last word in everything we do. Our firm decision is to work from this focused centre: One man died for everyone. That puts everyone in the same boat. He included everyone in his death so that everyone could also be included in his life, a resurrection life, a far better life than people ever lived on their own.

Tuesday (5:16-18)

We don't evaluate people by what they have or how they look. We looked at the Messiah that way once and got it all wrong, as you know. We certainly don't look at him that way anymore. Now we look inside, and what we see is that anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new. The old life is gone; a new life burgeons! Look at it! All this comes from the God who settled the relationship between us and him, and then called us to settle our relationships with each other.

Wednesday (5:19-20)

God put the world square with himself through the Messiah, giving the world a fresh start by offering forgiveness of sins. God has given us the task of telling everyone what he is doing. We're Christ's representatives. God uses us to persuade men and women to drop their differences and enter into God's work of making things right between them. We're speaking for Christ himself now: Become friends with God; he's already a friend with you.

Thursday (9:10-13)

This most generous God who gives seed to the farmer that becomes bread for your meals is more than extravagant with you. He gives you something you can then give away, which grows into full-formed lives, robust in God, wealthy in every way, so that you can be generous in every way, producing with us great praise to God. Carrying out this social relief work involves far more than helping meet the bare needs of poor Christians. It also produces abundant and bountiful thanksgivings to God.

Friday (10:3-5)

The world is unprincipled. It's dog-eat-dog out there! The world doesn't fight fair. But we don't live or fight our battles that way – never have and never will. The tools of our trade aren't for marketing or manipulation, but they are for demolishing that entire massively corrupt culture. We use our powerful God-tools for smashing warped philosophies, tearing down barriers erected against the truth of God, fitting every loose thought and emotion and impulse into the structure of life shaped by Christ.

Prayer Intercessions

The leader introduces the intercessions with these words:

They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

Isaiah 61:3b-4 (NRSV)

Each in turn offers a line of this prayer until all have spoken

- * O Lord, rebuild the ancient walls, your houses of prayer.
- * O Lord, raise up a new generation who will seek your face.
- * O Lord, revive your Church.
- * O Lord, re-wire our human cultures.
- * O Lord, restore the beauty of your Creation.

We may pray for:

- *our Community and other Communities,*
- *our neighbours, and local community*
- *the needs God has placed on our hearts today*

Ending with:

O Lord, hear our cry:

Rebuild, Raise up, Revive, Rewire, Restore,
in the name of Christ.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Each prays in their own preferred language or version

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.**

**Your kingdom come,
your will be done**

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins,

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory
are yours,**

now and for ever.

Amen.

or

**Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the
universe;
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of
the world;
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings;
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trial too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever.
Amen.**

A New Zealand Prayer Book

or

**Praise you, God.
You are very great in every way!
Please give us the things we need today,
for you will give us what we need.
We're sorry that we do wrong things and disobey,
for you forgive us when we say we are truly sorry.
God, help us in everything we do.
Please help us to live for you through each day,
for you always listen when we talk –
help us to listen when you talk.
Amen.**

From the Big Bible Storybook

Declaration of Faith

Standing

**We believe and trust in God the Father Almighty.
We believe and trust in Jesus Christ His Son.
We believe and trust in the Holy Spirit.
We believe and trust in the Three in One.**

Blessing

**Let nothing disturb you,
nothing frighten you;
all things are passing,
God never changes.
Patience attains all things,
whoever has God lacks nothing;
God alone suffices.**

St. Teresa of Avila

May the risen Christ grant us the joys of eternal life.
Amen.

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia

The leader extinguishes the candles

Compline

Gathering and Preparation

On the Cathedral chime the leader lights the central candle.

Sitting or kneeling

Welcome

At Compline we come to look back and let go
**+ in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Centring Prayer

As we enter prayer now, we pause to be still, slow our breathing, and centre ourselves in the abiding presence of Christ.

A minute of silence is held

Dedication
Rule of Life

Jesus says, *'Abide in me as I abide in you'*,
He invites us to come back home,
to stay, rest, obey and be with him in his joy.

**Lord, the day you gave us is over,
and now we come to rest,
grounding ourselves once more in
prayer, Scripture and solitude,
that we may be rooted in Christ and know his joy.
I choose to abide in Christ; present to
God's presence.
I choose to dive deep into God's Word.
I choose to make space to be alone with Jesus.
My sisters and brothers,
I will pray for you,
encourage you,
and walk with you,
as we seek to abide in Christ.**

The Examen

Sitting or kneeling

We allow 5 minutes for the Examen.

In our Examen, we take a long, loving look back over our day with God.

We notice and name God's presence.

In your imagination go hour by hour through your day, revisit each significant moment.

Thank God for the gifts and graces both big and small.

Lean into the difficult moments,

notice and name the movements of your heart.

Linger and let go to God

Look forward...who does God call you to be tomorrow?

Confession

Let us confess our sins and seek the tender mercy of Christ.

Kneeling

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ have mercy

Christ, have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

**I confess to almighty God
and to you my sisters and brothers,
that I have sinned through my own fault,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done,
and what I have failed to do;
and I ask you my sisters and brothers,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

Silence

Rising

Create in me a clean heart, O God,

and renew a right spirit within me.

Give us again the joy of your saving help,

and with your generous Spirit, sustain us.

Psalm 51:10, 12

The leader reads a psalm

Psalm 4

- 1 Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness; ♦
you set me at liberty when I was in trouble;
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
- 2 How long will you nobles dishonour my glory; ♦
how long will you love vain things and seek after
falsehood?
- 3 But know that the Lord has shown me his marvellous
kindness; ♦
when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.
- 4 Stand in awe, and sin not; ♦
commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be
still.
- 5 Offer the sacrifices of righteousness ♦
and put your trust in the Lord.
- 6 There are many that say, 'Who will show us any good?' ♦
Lord, lift up the light of your countenance upon us.
- 7 You have put gladness in my heart, ♦
more than when their corn and wine and oil increase.
- 8 In peace I will lie down and sleep, ♦
for it is you Lord, only, who make me dwell in safety.

Psalm 16

- 1 Preserve me, O God, for in you have I taken refuge; ♦
I have said to the Lord, 'You are my lord,
all my good depends on you.'
- 2 All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, ♦
upon those who are noble in heart.
- 3 Though the idols are legion that many run after, ♦
their drink offerings of blood I will not offer,
neither make mention of their names upon my lips.
- 4 The Lord himself is my portion and my cup; ♦
in your hands alone is my fortune.
- 5 My share has fallen in a fair land; ♦
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.
- 6 I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel, ♦
and in the night watches he instructs my heart.
- 7 I have set the Lord always before me; ♦
he is at my right hand; I shall not fall.
- 8 Wherefore my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices; ♦
my flesh also shall rest secure.
- 9 For you will not abandon my soul to Death, ♦
nor suffer your faithful one to see the Pit.
- 10 You will show me the path of life;
in your presence is the fullness of joy ♦
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

Psalm 91

- 1 Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High ♦
and abides under the shadow of the Almighty,
- 2 Shall say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my stronghold, ♦
my God, in whom I put my trust.'
- 3 For he shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler ♦
and from the deadly pestilence.
- 4 He shall cover you with his wings
and you shall be safe under his feathers; ♦
his faithfulness shall be your shield and buckler.
- 5 You shall not be afraid of any terror by night, ♦
nor of the arrow that flies by day;
- 6 Of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, ♦
nor of the sickness that destroys at noonday.
- 7 Though a thousand fall at your side
and ten thousand at your right hand, ♦
yet it shall not come near you.
- 8 Your eyes have only to behold ♦
to see the reward of the wicked.
- 9 Because you have made the Lord your refuge ♦
and the Most High your stronghold,
- 10 There shall no evil happen to you, ♦
neither shall any plague come near your tent.
- 11 For he shall give his angels charge over you, ♦
to keep you in all your ways.
- 12 They shall bear you in their hands, ♦
lest you dash your foot against a stone.
- 13 You shall tread upon the lion and adder; ♦
the young lion and the serpent you shall trample
underfoot.

- 14 Because they have set their love upon me,
therefore will I deliver them; ♦
I will lift them up, because they know my name.
- 15 They will call upon me and I will answer them; ♦
I am with them in trouble,
I will deliver them and bring them to honour.
- 16 With long life will I satisfy them ♦
and show them my salvation.

Psalm 113

- 1 Alleluia.
Give praise, you servants of the Lord, ♦
O praise the name of the Lord.
- 2 Blessed be the name of the Lord, ♦
from this time forth and for evermore.
- 3 From the rising of the sun to its setting ♦
let the name of the Lord be praised.
- 4 The Lord is high above all nations ♦
and his glory above the heavens.
- 5 Who is like the Lord our God,
that has his throne so high, ♦
yet humbles himself to behold
the things of heaven and earth?
- 6 He raises the poor from the dust ♦
and lifts the needy from the ashes,
- 7 To set them with princes, ♦
with the princes of his people.
- 8 He gives the barren woman a place in the house ♦
and makes her a joyful mother of children.
Alleluia.

Psalm 116

- 1 I love the Lord,
for he has heard the voice of my supplication; ♦
because he inclined his ear to me
on the day I called to him.
- 2 The snares of death encompassed me;
the pains of hell took hold of me; ♦
by grief and sorrow was I held.
- 3 Then I called upon the name of the Lord: ♦
'O Lord, I beg you, deliver my soul.'
- 4 Gracious is the Lord and righteous; ♦
our God is full of compassion.
- 5 The Lord watches over the simple; ♦
I was brought very low and he saved me.
- 6 Turn again to your rest, O my soul, ♦
for the Lord has been gracious to you.
- 7 For you have delivered my soul from death, ♦
my eyes from tears and my feet from falling.
- 8 I will walk before the Lord ♦
in the land of the living.
- 9 I believed that I should perish
for I was sorely troubled; ♦
and I said in my alarm,
Everyone is a liar.'
- 10 How shall I repay the Lord ♦
for all the benefits he has given to me?
- 11 I will lift up the cup of salvation ♦
and call upon the name of the Lord.
- 12 I will fulfil my vows to the Lord ♦
in the presence of all his people.

- 13 Precious in the sight of the Lord ♦
is the death of his faithful servants.
- 14 O Lord, I am your servant, ♦
your servant, the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.
- 15 I will offer to you a sacrifice of thanksgiving ♦
and call upon the name of the Lord.
- 16 I will fulfil my vows to the Lord ♦
in the presence of all his people,
- 17 In the courts of the house of the Lord, ♦
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.
Alleluia.

Psalm 123

- 1 To you I lift up my eyes, ♦
to you that are enthroned in the heavens.
- 2 As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their
master, ♦
or the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,
- 3 So our eyes wait upon the Lord our God, ♦
until he have mercy upon us.
- 4 Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us, ♦
for we have had more than enough of contempt.
- 5 Our soul has had more than enough of the scorn of the
arrogant, ♦
and of the contempt of the proud.

Psalm 134

- 1 Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord, ♦
you that by night stand in the house of the Lord.
- 2 Lift up your hands towards the sanctuary ♦
and bless the Lord.
- 3 The Lord who made heaven and earth ♦
give you blessing out of Zion.

Psalm 149

- 1 Alleluia.
O sing to the Lord a new song; ♦
sing his praise in the congregation of the faithful.
- 2 Let Israel rejoice in their maker; ♦
let the children of Zion be joyful in their king.
- 3 Let them praise his name in the dance; ♦
let them sing praise to him with timbrel and lyre.
- 4 For the Lord has pleasure in his people ♦
and adorns the poor with salvation.
- 5 Let the faithful be joyful in glory; ♦
let them rejoice in their ranks,
- 6 With the praises of God in their mouths ♦
and a two-edged sword in their hands;
- 7 To execute vengeance on the nations ♦
and punishment on the peoples;
- 8 To bind their kings in chains ♦
and their nobles with fetters of iron;
- 9 To execute on them the judgement decreed: ♦
such honour have all his faithful servants.
Alleluia.

Psalm 150

- 1 Alleluia.
O praise God in his holiness; ♦
praise him in the firmament of his power.
- 2 Praise him for his mighty acts; ♦
praise him according to his excellent greatness.
- 3 Praise him with the blast of the trumpet; ♦
praise him upon the harp and lyre.
- 4 Praise him with timbrel and dances; ♦
praise him upon the strings and pipe.
- 5 Praise him with ringing cymbals; ♦
praise him upon the clashing cymbals.
- 6 Let everything that has breath ♦
praise the Lord.
Alleluia.

Short Scripture Reading

Monday

“Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him.

Mark 16:6

Tuesday

But they urged Him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So He went in to stay with them.

Luke 24:29

Wednesday

Then Jesus told Thomas, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

John 20:29

Thursday

“I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.”

John 21:18

Friday

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

Matthew 28:19-20

Sunday

Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong.
Let all that you do be done in love.

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

A short silence to reflect on the reading.

The following responsory may be said:

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.

I commend my spirit.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit

Alleluia, alleluia

Keep me as the apple of your eye.

Hide me under the shadow of your wings.

Prayers

Intercessions

Personal intercessions and thanksgivings are offered here in silence.

Each person says the following in turn:

**My dear ones O Lord, bless and keep,
in every place where they are.**

We say together:

**Our dear ones, O Lord, Companions and friends,
bless and keep,
in every place where they are.**

A Collect is chosen

Stay with us, O God, this night,
so that by your strength
we may rise with the new day
to rejoice in the resurrection of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Amen

Visit this place, O Lord, we pray,
and drive far from it the snares of the enemy;
may your holy angels dwell with us and guard us in peace,
and may your blessing be always upon us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Be present, O merciful God,
and protect us through the silent hours of this night,
so that we who are wearied
by the changes and chances of this fleeting world,
may rest upon your eternal changelessness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Keep watch, dear Lord,
with those who wake, or watch, or weep this night,
and give your angels charge over those who sleep.
Tend the sick, give rest to the weary,
sustain the dying, calm the suffering,
and pity the distressed;
all for your love's sake, O Christ our Redeemer.

Amen.

The Conclusion

In peace we will lie down and sleep;
for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.
Abide with us, Lord Jesus,
for the night is at hand and the day is now past.
As the night watch looks for the morning,
so do we look for you, O Christ.

May the risen Lord Jesus bless us.
May he watch over us and renew us
as he renews the whole of creation.
May our hearts and lives echo his love.
Amen.

The chapel lights are switched off by the leader.

Silent prayer until each is ready to depart to sleep.

The last person to leave extinguishes the candles.

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